

30, 1840. Their resignations were accompanied by long explanations, the gist of which may be found in the following: "My resignation is not prompted by a belief that the resolutions imposed on me any such obligation, but from an anxious desire to submit my public course to the decision of the people of the State, which would have been done sooner, if an election had sooner intervened." As I have already said, the General Assembly, elected the second Thursday in August, 1840, was Whig by a large majority. These vacancies were to be filled by it at its coming November session. Bedford Brown's term was to expire March 4, 1841, Wiley P. Mangum was elected to fill the unexpired term, and also for a full term commencing at that date. Robert Strange's term was to expire on March 4, 1843, and William A. Graham was, on November 24, 1840, elected to fill this by a vote of ninety-eight for himself and sixty-four for Strange. Both candidates were selected by the Whigs in caucus, out of some five or six names. Mr. Mangum was at the time the leader of the Whig party in the State. By general consent of the Whigs at large he was to be Mr. Brown's successor, and he was unanimously so named by the caucus. It was a very great and unusual honor that the Whigs conferred on so young a man as Mr. Graham to choose him out of five candidates as United States Senator, when he was a resident of the same county as Mr. Mangum. It is, too, the strongest testimony to his ability and his private and public worth. His selection was received with great satisfaction by the Whigs. Said the *Register* of November 27, 1840: "He is a statesman of high order, is a powerful debater, and combined with these qualifications has indefatigable application. His virtues and amiable qualities endear him to all who know him." The Democratic comment, however, was rather caustic, on his age, his lack of experience and his geographical situation.